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European Union

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: Fit for 55 package

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) 2018/841 as regards the scope, simplifying the compliance rules, setting out the targets of the Member States for 2030 and committing to the collective achievement of climate neutrality by 2035 in the land use, forestry and agriculture sector, and (EU) 2018/1999 as regards improvement in monitoring, reporting, tracking of progress and review

- General approach
  - Statement
-

**National statement on behalf of Slovakia**  
**concerning**  
**the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) 2018/841 as regards the scope, simplifying the compliance rules and setting out the targets of the Member States for 2030 [...], and (EU) 2018/1999 as regards improvement in monitoring, reporting, tracking of progress and review (LULUCF revision regulation)**

Forests represent an important part of the land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector. As highlighted in the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”<sup>1</sup>, signed by European ministers responsible for forests at the Eighth FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference, forests play a vital role in providing multiple benefits for the environment, economic and social development, and livelihoods in Europe.

Slovakia is convinced that, in order to ensure those multiple benefits of forests, we need to promote and apply a holistic and long-term vision on our forests in line with the relevant international commitments that promote sustainable forest management, including those taken within the framework of the FOREST EUROPE process. Only such an approach will ensure the fulfilment of all forest functions demanded by European citizens, including carbon sequestration, in a balanced and integrated way and in a long run.

Carbon emissions and removals in forests may be and often are a subject to significant short-term (inter-annual) as well as long-term fluctuations. Similarly, removals in forests achieved in the past may be released back to the atmosphere in case of natural disasters or during longer natural cycles. Therefore, long-term stability and adaptive capacity of forests and thus long-term stability of carbon stored in forests is a matter of a priority that goes beyond of any specific LULUCF target set for any particular year. This is also what the above mentioned internationally agreed principles for sustainable forest management say, among many other things.

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<sup>1</sup> Eighth FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference; 14-15 April 2021; the Bratislava Ministerial declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”: <https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Bratislava-Ministerial-Declaration.pdf>

In addition, Slovakia is convinced that long-term fluctuations of carbon emissions and removals in forests influenced by changes in the forest age structure may also have significant effects on the capacities and the ability of the LULUCF sector in some Member States to meet their nationally determined targets already in the period before 2030. Therefore, we are of the view that those effects should be adequately and specifically taken into account in the period from 2026 to 2030.

Slovakia is of the view that only by respecting the above mentioned principles we will ensure that our forests and the forest sector can adequately contribute to the overall Union's objective of climate neutrality.

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